

Kenneth M. Mead

Inspector General

Office of Inspector General,
Department of Transportation



Mr. Mead, nominated by the President to be the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 27, 1997.

His office is responsible for audits, evaluations and investigations that prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse. He also advises the Secretary of Transportation and the Congress on "best practices," on specific findings of deficiency and on ways to strengthen the management of Department of Transportation programs and operations. Mr. Mead has frequently testified before Congressional committees on a wide variety of transportation issues. In setting goals for the Office of Inspector General, Mr. Mead places highest priority on transportation safety, followed by improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of Department of Transportation operations.

Landmarks of Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General work during Mr. Mead's tenure include audits on issues affecting aviation safety; audits of airline consumer service including flight cancellations and delays; audits of practices at the Boston Central Artery/Ted Williams Tunnel project in Boston, MA; analysis of Amtrak's efforts to become financially self-sustaining; audits of airport baggage-security practices and controls of access to secured airport locations; audits of trucking-safety oversight; audits identifying, and tracking DOT response to, potential Year-2000 computer problems; audits of the Federal Aviation Administration's progress in modernizing its air traffic control systems and attempting to reduce runway incursions; and audits helping the Maritime Administration assess the solvency of a shipyard under construction in Quincy, MA.

The Office of Inspector General also has done groundbreaking auditing work on a series of "Megaprojects" (public-works projects costing \$1 billion or more), on cost-accounting issues for the FAA, and on financial statements for the FAA and the Department of Transportation.

In addition, under Mr. Mead's leadership the Office of Inspector General investigative team has increased emphasis on the prosecution of cases involving illegal transport and mishandling of hazardous materials, trafficking in unapproved aircraft parts, falsification of truck drivers' duty logs and other unsafe practices in surface transportation, and government-employee integrity.

Prior to becoming Inspector General, Mr. Mead was with the U.S. General Accounting Office for 22 years. During that time he served as Deputy Assistant Comptroller General for Policy; as Director of Transportation and Telecommunication Issues; as Associate Director and Assistant Director in the transportation area; as Assistant Director of GAO's Office of Quality Assurance, and as Senior Attorney with GAO's Office of General Counsel.

Mr. Mead received his baccalaureate degree from Southern Connecticut University and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina. He is also an alumnus of the Federal Executive Institute's Executive Excellence Program, and of Harvard University's Senior Policy Fellows Program.

A veteran, Mr. Mead served in the U.S. Naval Submarine Service.

Among the awards he has received are GAO's Distinguished Service Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the rank of Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service. He is an active member of the District of Columbia Bar and the American Numismatic Association.

Mr. Mead resides in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Elizabeth, and their daughters Jennifer and Hillary.